

In this lesson, we'll be returning to an earlier historical period, a time before the Modern Synthesis brought together Mendelism and Darwinism. Biologists of the period we'll be examining had just rediscovered Mendel's Laws, and they believed that those laws had an unlimited potential to change the world. Before beginning this lesson, you may want to review the following lessons:

- Lesson Two. Charles Darwin and the Theory of "Descent with Modification"
- Lesson Three. Understanding Heredity: Mendel's Laws and Classical Genetics

In this lesson, you will examine how some of the scientific ideas you've been exposed to fit into American culture between 1890 and 1925. If you are unfamiliar with U.S. history during this period, you may want to review some of the major developments of the time. A useful source is the Online Textbook of the Digital History website. The website can be found at <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/>

You'll find the following lessons to be particularly helpful:

- Industrialization and the Working Class
<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/subtitles.cfm?titleID=38>
- The Huddled Masses
<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/subtitles.cfm?titleID=59>
- The Rise of Big Business
<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/subtitles.cfm?titleID=34>
- The Progressive Era
<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/subtitles.cfm?titleID=31>